



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

1845, and of the act of 1789, says—"These laws are both constitutional, and ought therefore to be carried into execution. The jurisdiction, under both laws, is confined to vessels enrolled and licensed for the coasting trade; and the act of 1845 extends only to such vessels when they are engaged in commerce between different States and territories. It does not apply to vessels engaged in the domestic commerce of a State, nor to a vessel, or boats, not enrolled and licensed for the coasting trade under the authority of Congress."¹

It follows, that in order to show the jurisdiction of the District Courts of the United States in "matters of contract and tort" arising on the lakes and other navigable rivers, the libellant should aver and prove the facts and conditions stated in the act of Congress of 20th of February, 1845. In this case no amendment to this effect can be made conformably with the facts of the case.

DECREE REVERSED, and the cause dismissed for want of jurisdiction. The question of costs reserved for further hearing.

In the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

CARRYL vs. TAYLOR.²

1. When a ship has been seized under a foreign attachment issued out of a State Court and is in the hands of the sheriff, a subsequent seizure by the marshal under an attachment for mariner's wages issued out of the District Court of the United States, can operate only as a contingent seizure, and depends for its efficacy on the event of the ship or its proceeds, or part of them, being afterwards discharged from the seizure under the process of the State Court.
2. There is no such superiority in the United States Court or in its attachment for mariners' wages, as entitles such a process to override and frustrate the previous seizure under the process of the State Court; and a sale under it while the ship remains in the custody of the State Court, or after the State Court has sold it under the foreign attachment proceeding, is void for want of jurisdiction of the subject matter.
3. In a harmonious system of government the same property may be the subject of several seizures on writs from different Courts, but all after the first seizure must

¹ The Propeller *Genesee vs. Fitzhugh*, 12 Howard, 458.

² This case, tried at Nisi Prius, will be found reported in 2 Am. Law Reg. 324, opinion of KANE, J.; also, opinion of WOODWARD, J. at p. 333.

- be subordinate to it and contingent, and can take effect only after the first seizure has been satisfied or released.
4. It is an essential rule of harmony, that, among co-ordinate jurisdictions, that one is exclusive which is first attached.
 5. Our foreign attachment is a procedure *in rem*, and a sale of chattels under it passes the title clear of all liens, and the claims of the lien holders attaches to the proceeds, which will be distributed according to the rights of all.
 6. Where chattels are sold as perishable, under a foreign attachment, the whole title is transferred, and all claimants and lien holders must come in and claim against the proceeds before distribution.
 7. Practice where property attached is claimed by a third person.
 8. Remarks upon the conflict of jurisdiction between the State Courts and those of the Union, and on the province of the Admiralty Courts.

The opinion of the Court was delivered by

LOWRIE, J.—This is an action of replevin for the ship *Royal Saxon*. The plaintiff claims title under a sheriff's sale in a foreign attachment procedure in the State Court, and the defendant under a marshal's sale, in an admiralty attachment procedure in the District Court of the United States. The two proceedings were partly contemporaneous; but the attachment of the State Court was first, and when the marshal executed his writ he returned that he had done so, and that he "found a sheriff's officer on board, claiming to have her in custody," and the case shows that the officer continued in custody up to the time when the sheriff sold her by order of the State Court.

These facts raise the question, what is the relative value of these two attachments?

It is admitted that there is no superiority of Courts of admiralty over common law Courts, that entitles their process to any pre-eminence; yet there are thoughts underlying this admission and appearing in the argument, that tend to shape and control its effect, and they need some notice.

It is no kind of evidence of their superiority that their seal is admitted everywhere in evidence; for so is that of a Notary Public. Neither in England nor here are the seals of other foreign Courts so treated; yet both there and here the admiralty is an inferior Court.

And there is no peculiarity in the principle that all the world are chargeable with notice of what is going on in the court of admiralty ; for that is only an emphatic mode of stating the ordinary doctrine of *lis pendens*.

Nor is there any peculiarity in the fact that the admiralty process against ships is *in rem* ; for almost all common law Courts have the same sort of process ; in Ohio, a justice of the peace may issue it ; and in substance, the proceeding by a justice of the peace against a stray cow is exactly equivalent. 6 Watts, 492. It is no essential part of the form that *the thing* should be styled the deft.

The District Court is not superior by reason of its being a federal Court, except so far as it has the advantage of being part of a jurisdiction which, in its highest impersonations, has the power to declare the limits of its own authority.

It has a peculiar dignity when sitting as a Prize Court, and applying the great principles of international law ; but as an Instance Court it is simply a Court of Common Pleas and Quarter Sessions, with different forms, and with jurisdiction of a special class of cases, and in the very nature of things, bound by the usages and statutes of the State where it sits, or by the statutes of the Union ; for it can have no other law. Its creation is not the institution of new relations, duties or obligations among citizens ; but merely a provision for enforcing those already existing. Where admiralty laws exist, it may administer them. Where they do not, it cannot. Like all other federal institutions, it must submit to have its jurisdiction strictly construed.

It is not superior as a Court of equity is, because of a power to draw to itself all the litigation about a particular subject matter, as being the only Court where the claims of all can be adequately adjudicated ; for it cannot even incidentally bring any other than admiralty claims within its jurisdiction.

It is merely a co-ordinate Court, and its suitors must be content to have it governed by the principle that, among equal jurisdictions that is exclusive which is first attached.

This is an essential principle of government, and presents one aspect of the idea, that all the institutions and ordinances of the same

government have a unity and consistency of purpose which demand that its functions and functionaries shall act freely and harmoniously as elements of the same system. This ideal unity does not however exist in practice in every and scarcely in any government, because of the fundamental difference in the principles that enter into the organization of its different departments. If they represent different interests, there will be conflicts between them, because their principles are various.

Hence the jealousy that once existed in England and in this country, between the courts of Chancery and Admiralty on the one hand and the common law courts on the other ; the former representing and favoring the monarchical, and the latter the democratic element of government. This jealousy has subsided or died away under the general prevalence of the popular element in the organization and control of both ; and these conflicts have resulted in advantage to the general welfare, as all such conflicts do, when they do not spread beyond the different departments of the government.

There is, practically, a similar element of discord in this country in its federal and state judiciary department, arising out of the facts that their respective jurisdictions are not susceptible of perfectly defined limits, and that the sources of their authority are not identical. And, since it is not easily seen how there can be any constituted harmony between the two forms of administration, except so far as we can rely on the wisdom and unity of the federal judiciary, it becomes very obvious that we are not without danger of having the power of the state judiciary very seriously impaired, by a process similar to that by which the local courts of the Anglo-Saxons were absorbed by the courts of the Norman kings.

This evil was, in a measure, corrected in England by the gradual infusion of the popular and customary principles into the king's courts ; but that would be no corrective here, if our American notions of the danger of any increase in the centralization of power are well founded. It is certainly a very prevalent sentiment that our state courts are competent to settle all juridical questions that depend upon state laws, and that, even if they are not, it is best that they should try to do it, and that it is conducive to general in-

telligence and order that they should be allowed to do it as best they can.

It is supposed that very much of the energy of the people of this country arises from the fact that they all participate so largely and directly in the regulation of their own government; and it would be considered most disastrous if a majority of Americans, democratic though it might be, should govern the affairs of each state or township. Our feelings and our attention are most attracted by matters nearest home, and we can, of course, manage them better than even wiser people at a distance can do, except in those instances where our interest is too earnest for our judgement; and if those instances be not numerous and important enough to form a class by themselves, they must take their chance of the errors and failings that belong to humanity.

Certainly there ought to be no encroachment of one department upon the province of another, founded upon the suspicion that one will do its duty less honestly or intelligently than the other. And the danger of encroachment is not avoided merely by the honesty and intelligence of those who are invested with official functions; for these qualities are necessary to see the right and understand the defects of others in administering it, and then a strong and earnest mind may mislead them into supplying those defects by encroachments which, by reason alone of their beneficial results, become dangerous precedents of unwarranted jurisdiction.

In the true idea of the American Union there are no discordant principles between federal and state institutions, though human imperfection may lead to discordant practice. It has done so in this case, and it becomes our duty to overcome the difficulty as intelligently and discreetly as we are able.

By the seizure, under the foreign attachment of the state court, this ship was placed in the custody of the law, which means nothing less than it was in the custody of the State of Pennsylvania, by its appropriate functionaries, for all the purposes of the process then commenced against it; and the master was garnisheed or warned to appear and defend her against the claim. Such is the law, such was the order of the writ, and such the act of the sheriff, and an

arrest in admiralty is substantially the same. Whatever might be the final result of the process, it was a necessary part of it that the ship itself should be under the control of the court, and the seizure was at least as effective as one under an execution would have been. 10 Pet. 400.

When the marshal went to execute the writ of the District Court, he found the ship in possession of the State authorities. This was a condition of affairs not provided for by his writ, and not feeling himself authorized to exclude the State officer, he simply attached the ship without interfering with the previous possession, and substantially reported the state of affairs in his return.

Let it be conceded that this was a sufficient seizure to invest the District Court with any jurisdiction over the ship that could be taken by one court over a thing that is already under the control of another; it could not entitle the marshal to exclude the sheriff. One officer is not the superior of the other, and no sort of mere private claim could justify a regulation that would allow of such a collision of functions. Different arrests on *capias* or seizures on execution could not thus interfere, even if they were from supreme and subordinate courts. Injunctions and prohibitions interfere in no such form and with no such effect. Admit that there is more inherent efficacy in an arrest of a ship for mariners' wages than there is in our foreign attachment process; still it could not operate with all its ordinary efficacy after a prior seizure under the other writ, because the prior control must remain until the prior process should be terminated, and thus far at least the mariners' arrest must be subordinate.

But is the arrest for mariners' wages more efficacious? True, it is designed to enforce an earlier lien; but that would not prevent an information in the exchequer to obtain a condemnation for a breach of the revenue laws, nor a libel in admiralty for a maritime hypothecation; and it could not prevent an absolute sale of the ship under such proceedings, even though founded on claims of inferior degree. Whether the inferior claim were in the exchequer or in admiralty, the sailors would have to follow their vessel there and make their claim. 9 Wheat. 400; 1 Rob. 178; 10 Mis. 527;

5 Blackf. 483. They could not disregard the process already commenced. Even government cannot set up her superior claim for forfeiture after the ship has been sold under an order of the court for an inferior one. 3 Price, 97.

There is no peculiar sacredness in the character of such liens that can add to their efficacy. Like many other remedies and rules of admiralty, they began in usurpation, because in disregard of the common law, and have never had any other foundation than subsequent ratification, expressed by statute or implied from submission to them. In the time of Richard II, much of this usurpation was condemned by statute, just as at other times the usurpations of the kings were condemned by *magna charta*. What was left of it and has hitherto continued to be used in England is, of course, part of their law—its subsequent general use is a ratification that pardons the vice of its origin.

So far as we have adopted, by settled custom, this part of the English law, it is a special part of our common or customary law, and it is as legitimate as any other, but not superior. How far this adoption proceeded, came very naturally to be decided in the first instance by the Admiralty Courts, unless when our several legislatures declared it. We did not, as one people, adopt it; for at the time of its adoption we were separate colonies. We did not so adopt it by creating Federal Courts of Admiralty, for they were instituted merely to enforce it, that is, where it previously existed. And so far as the several States have adopted it, they have done it only as part of their customary law, and it must of course be open to alteration by them.

We never adopt it in relation to our inland navigation, except by using its light in framing some of our statutes. The rules by which admiralty interprets the relations and duties existing between individuals, can be nothing else than the contract of the parties or the law of some place where the relation or duty is alleged to have been created, and this law must vary in different states and countries. There is no uniformity in the law of mariners' wages. In France they stand number six among privileged debts or liens, without counting salvage, which is first of all; and the privilege does not

continue beyond the completion of the next voyage, and is discharged by any judicial sale. Code de Com. 191—196. 3 Vincens Legisl. Com. 117. Pothier de Louage Mar. 55, 226—8. Our limitation of the lien would be very much the same, if the analogy of our statutes concerning liens on vessels is worth anything. Ware's Rep. 322.

If the principles which we have just expressed are not substantially correct, then certainly a channel is opened, through the province of the Admiralty Courts, by which we may enter upon the open sea of latitudinarian interpretation of federal jurisdiction, and by which many of our state institutions may be securely invaded.

We have said that this admiralty process derives no peculiar efficacy from the fact that it is *in rem*. Like other judicial proceedings, it is simply conclusive of the matters which it professes to determine. Thus it decides that a specific thing is liable to be sold for a certain debt. In this it does not substantially differ from a process to enforce a mortgage or a builder's lien, or from an action of partition, and very many other procedures. If the process served upon the defendant's property do not compel him to appear, the suit may still go on; and even herein our processes of *sci. fa.* on mortgages and judgments, and of summons in covenant on a perpetual rent, as well as our foreign and domestic attachments, are directly analogous. The peculiar style of the action is very convenient; but it is not intended or expected that the ship shall make any defence. Such suits generally proceed on the principle that there are some interests and duties to which parties ought to be prepared to attend by themselves or their agents, on a very summary kind of warning.

It is supposed that the foreign attachment, because it affected only the title of the defendant, could not affect the mariner's liens for wages. But a lien is not a title to a thing, but a right to present a claim against it and demand payment out of it; and a mariner's lien is such a right as can be asserted only by judicial process. It gives no right in the vessel until condemnation. Since, therefore, the defendant in the foreign attachment was the sole owner of it, that writ took the custody of the whole title, and then the mariners could not interfere with it, except by some direct

application to the department of government which had it in charge, or to some superior one. The law could not take it for them into custody, for it had it already for another purpose, and therefore for all purposes to which any one might claim that it ought to be applied by the State.

Were, then, the mariners' liens gone by the operation of the foreign attachment? Certainly not; for the law does not apply its remedies so as to do wrong to any one. The foreign attachment was a conditional sequestration of the ship, and it might be released from the custody of the law either by defeat of the action or by bail or by payment of the debt, just as an arrest in admiralty might be. Such contingencies attend all such seizures.

In a harmonious system of government there can, therefore, be nothing to prevent a second judicial seizure of the same property, subject to the control already taken of it in a former case, even by a different tribunal. This is the constant practice in the service of foreign attachments and executions from the same court or from different courts, and it is most completely illustrated in the case of executions issued by different justices of the peace to different constables against the same defendant. In a very recent case at Pittsburgh, *Harberson vs. McCartney*, one constable attempted, by an early sale, to get ahead of a previous levy by another, on property not easily removable, and we corrected his haste and declared the second levy subordinate to the first.

When the different processes issue from different courts, the court by whose process the property is converted into money, marshals the liens according to their legal order and distributes it, whether they are liens at large or of record. This is the constant practice in relation to the liens of carriers, factors, consignees and landlords, and all others having the same right; for the law does not use its power to their disappointment. And this principle is a mere corollary of that which attributes to all judicial sales the effect of discharging all liens, and which was demonstrated by Chief Justice Gibson, 3 Rawle. 126. And there is no matter of courtesy in this, but of mere duty, on the part of those who have to administer a system that was intended to work harmoniously.

That maritime liens and the United States Courts are a part of a more general system, does not hinder them from entering into this intended harmony—they are still part of our one system. A generous confidence and courtesy between different, even judicial functionaries, will not embarrass them in the performance of their respective duties; for certainly the forms of judicial procedure, like those of other business, are susceptible of some accommodation, and can be adapted under all circumstances to secure the end for which they are designed, and especially to the general frame of government of which they form a part. It is not at all strange for courts to exercise a very large discretion under extraordinary circumstances for the purpose of giving their process an orderly, efficient, and equitable direction. Eden's Bankr. Law, 339, 1 Mason, 409. And when access to a common superior is difficult, there is room for consultation and concession, at least as to forms.

We discover nothing that need have prevented an arrangement in this case, by which either court might have sold the ship and paid the mariners, and the surplus would have remained in, or been ordered into the other to answer the further demands against it there. It is very much to be regretted that this was not thought of by either court in the course of the cause. Since it was not done, we must now decide the rights that have arisen out of the conflicting practice.

We have said enough to show that the whole custody of the ship was in the state court, and that the mariners' liens would have been protected there, had they been presented. The next question is, were the mariners' under the necessity of presenting them in the State court, in case it should go on to the sale of the ship under the foreign attachment process?

We have already indicated our opinion that they were; but there are further reasons for it. Our foreign attachment proceeding, and also our execution attachment are as fully *in rem*, as an attachment in admiralty, with this difference,—that the former depends upon the allegation that the defendant has the title, while the latter is altogether irrespective of title, except so far as a rightful possession is necessary to a rightful use of the ship.

By our writ, the ship or other thing is taken into the custody of the law, and he who has the possession is garnished to defend all the interests which the thing represents, and his relation to the property requires that he should defend them, or give notice to the owners to look to their own interests. It is a part of the process that all claimants may intervene directly for themselves, either by a formal common law interpleader, or by an informal one. 1 Troub. and H. Prac. by Wharton, 370; 4 Rawle, 109; 2 ib. 37; 4 Binn, 61; 9 Vin. Abr. 419, title Interpleader. Brooke's Abr. same title. *McMunn vs. Carothers*, 9 Pa. Law Journal, 134.

And it seems to be really essential that this should be the effect of the process in its operation on personal property. The articles attached are often very numerous, and when sold are delivered to numerous people, and the process would do great wrong if it should leave the lien on the goods, while it is thus scattering them to the winds. If goods were thus sold, it must necessarily result in a great sacrifice of property. A lien on a ship's cargo or furniture would not be worth much after a sheriff's sale, and they would not sell for much under a threat of an admiralty attachment.

No doubt the property might be of such a character—a ship, for instance—that it might well be sold subject to a lien; but to do so would seem to require a special order. Obviously these reasons do not apply to land attached, and there is no need of adjudicating upon its title. As in the case of an inquest of office for escheat or forfeiture, the principal fact only, and not the title, is in question. Yet the possession of land is taken under the writ of attachment, and the rents sequestered into court, and the decree of the court must be conclusive as to the title to them. And such is necessarily the case when a debt is attached; for the debtor is summoned as garnishee, and the judgment may be that he pay the whole debt to the plaintiff in the attachment, and not to his creditor. If the debt shall have been previously assigned to another person before it was attached, the assignee must, on notice from the garnishee, interplead and establish his prior right, or his title will be lost. (20 Johns. 229.) The note in 4 Cowen, 520, is relevant to several aspects of this case.

But there is another view of this foreign attachment proceeding that is quite as direct and conclusive. By the execution of the writ the State takes specific chattels into its possession for certain purposes. In our practice, this purpose cannot be reached in less than about nine months, and it is very apparent that this delay may be ruinous of many articles. The interest of all concerned in them is that they should be sold, and the State exercises her best discretion when she directs this to be done. This is the means adopted to protect the interest of all who have any title to the property or claim upon it, and their rights are transferred to the proceeds. Here again, if the sale should be of many articles, as it most frequently is, and if it should be made subject to all claims except the one intended to be satisfied by the suit, it is very apparent that those claims would be most effectually destroyed by a proceeding that is pretending to protect them.

In such a case the government acts for the benefit of all, and its sale confers an absolute title. The counsel have referred to authorities enough to sustain so plain a principle: Parker's Rep. 70; Plow. 465; 1 Freem. 185; 2 Keb. 381; 12 Co. 73; 1 Vent. 313; 2 Inst. 168; 4 Johns. 34; 5 Mason, 481. We may add that the power with which the law invests the master to hypothecate or sell all interests in both ship and cargo, in a case of necessity, is another expression of the same principle. 4 Com. Bench R. 149; 7 Mees. & W. 322; 1 Exch. Rep. 537; 3 B. & Ald. 237. The effect of such a sale on the mariners' liens is very clear. They were discharged from the ship and attached to the proceeds, and those they could not possibly reach without some application to the Court that had the custody of them.

From all this it seems to follow that the arrest for the sailors depended for its efficacy upon a contingency that never happened. The proceeding in the State Court totally exhausted the subject matter of their contingent seizure, and prevented it from ever reaching the District Court. Its decree was therefore in relation to a subject over which it had no control, and was consequently void.

We may admit that a replevin suit would not prevent an attachment for a lien; because in replevin, as in ejectment, the title or

possession alone is in controversy, and the question of lien is totally independent of it. Besides, in such a suit the property is never taken into the possession of the Court, no more than a man is when he gives bail on a *capias*.

Possibly it might be said of a judgment in foreign attachment, that a sale under it, after the arrest for the sailors' wages, ought to have been made subject to them, especially if their amount were ascertained ; but it would be impossible to expect a sale for the purpose of preserving the value of the thing to take this form.

To say that the Sheriff's vendees might have intervened in the District Court, is to assume that the proceeding in the State Court had not passed the title to the thing which was in their custody, and which they had sold, and this begs the very question of the cause.

To say that the Sheriff might, in case the District Court had sold first, have applied there for the surplus, is certainly very proper, if it can possibly be admitted that the District Court could uncereimoniously take the ship out of the custody of the State Court and sell it.

It is very true that the effect which we have felt bound to attribute to the foreign attachment proceeding, may sometimes cause delays in enforcing sailors' liens ; but this cannot be avoided. There are very many other circumstances that may cause such delays. A seizure for a forfeiture or for a hypothecation may do so, and especially one for salvage. The law is neither omnipotent nor omnipresent, at least in its judicial impersonations, and it does not intend that its favors even to sailors shall apply in all cases and under all circumstances. It is sufficient that they are favored by the general rule, and, like others, they must expect disappointments in exceptional cases.

JUDGMENT AFFIRMED.¹

¹ It is understood that this case will be taken to the Supreme Court of the United States.